

December 1, 2009

Lynne,

Here are updated versions of some of the memos that have been sent to Assessment Directors about Utah Write and the DWA. I thought these would be helpful in answering the questions you posed. Please let me know if you need more information. Thanks!

Margaret

September 2, 2009—Online Writing Vendor Selected: Measurement Inc.

Online Writing Services paid for by USOE:

1. Summative Assessment 5th/8th grade , 1 test per student , February/March window
2. Formative Assessment, 5th/8th grade, entire school year

Availability:

1. The formative assessment tool for grade 5 and 8 should be available by Sept. 21. Initial training will be provided at the Sept. 18 Assessment Directors meeting.
2. Summative testing details should be available in November.
3. For grades other than 5th/8th Measurement Inc. has agreed to waive the \$250 setup fee so the cost per student to LEAs will be \$5.08 per student.

Contact Information: Project Manager: Byinna Crowder

Support Telephone (toll free): 866-691-1231

Support Email: utahwriting@measinc.com

Questions:

1. Why wasn't Vantage (My Access) selected? Our teachers are already trained and they like the product.
We understand your disappointment that the vendor many of you are currently using was not selected. However, please know the RFP process gave all vendors ample opportunity to present their product and their best pricing.
2. Who is Measurement Incorporated?
Measurement Incorporated develops and scores educational tests. It is based in Durham, North Carolina and was established in 1980. For Utah, they will be using their Automated Essay Scoring (AES) software, Project Essay Grade (PEG), to score student writing. PEG is based on more than 40 years of research and the results have been validated in more independent studies than all other essay scoring programs combined.
3. Where can we find more information about Measurement Inc's writing tool?
Their tool performs like other online writing programs. Students submit writing and it is scored using the AES software. Analytic scores are available immediately to teachers and students. PI
4. Can we still use Vantage for formative assessment if we pay for it?
Yes, absolutely. However, you will need to use the Measurement Inc. system for the summative test in Feb. /March.
5. Will the prompt still be persuasive?
Yes, however, we will have a conversation with LEAs this year to determine if that is the best approach.
6. Will our teachers like and use this tool?
We encourage you to be open-minded and give Measurement Inc. a fair opportunity to prove themselves to you and your teachers. The goal is the same for all of us, to help students become better writers. We believe Measurement Inc., if given a fair opportunity, can assist us in moving towards that goal.

September 15, 2009—Online Writing Update

Measurement Inc. is the new vendor for the DWA

11th grade student licenses will cost \$4.64 each for a year

4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 12th grade student licenses will cost \$5.08 each for a year

Contact information for ordering licenses for students not in 5th and 8th grades:

Project Manager: Byinna Crowder

Support Telephone (toll free): 866-691-1231

Support Email: utahwriting@measinc.com

September 22, 2009—Utah Write—Online Formative Writing Update

www.utahwrite.com

On September 21, 2009 access information for Utah Write was sent to approximately 200 people across the state. Those contact names were either given to Margaret Young at the AD Meeting, or selected by her from the Assessment Director list, the default method outlined at the AD Meeting on 9/18/09. There were some emails returned to MI due to errors in the address, these are being resolved ASAP.

If you received the information and are NOT the chosen contact for your LEA, please let Margaret know, along with informing her who the contact is for your LEA. If your LEA did not receive the information, please let Margaret know.

The USOE is paying for 5th and 8th grade students to use this program throughout the year.

LEAs will need to pay for students in other grades to use Utah Write:

- 11th grade--\$4.64 per student,
- 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 12th grades--\$5.08 per student

Measurement Incorporated made some changes to the sign-up process for off-grade courses based on what they learned at the AD Meeting on Friday, September 18, 2009. They felt it was important to make the Teacher Sign-up process even more efficient. As a result, they decided that once a district code is entered, courses will be activated immediately instead of waiting for the receipt of a purchase order. The teacher will be sent the following message:

"Courses for this grade level have NOT been prepaid by the Utah State Department of Education. For this course to remain active, a purchase order must be submitted by an authorized buyer for your school or district. Your course will remain active for 30 days pending the receipt of a purchase order.

To download the purchase order form, click the link below:

<http://www.utahwrite/purchaseorder.pdf>."

This approach allows teachers to begin using the tool immediately without having to wait for paper work to be completed. The LEA contacts will receive notice that teachers have signed up for off-grade courses.

The DWA will be administered online, via a system that will mirror the Utah Write program, in Spring 2010 to 5th and 8th grade students. The prompt will be persuasive in nature. The DWA is an untimed, one session test. Students will be allowed to bring a blank sheet of paper and a pencil to use in creating their own graphic organizer or notes to the computer; this paper will need to be collected and secure-destroyed at the end of the testing session.

November 30, 2009—Online DWA Training

Audience: LEA individuals responsible for overseeing the Online Direct Writing Assessment (DWA). This training will focus on how to use the student management and test administration features of the Online DWA system. Information related to the technical set-up of machines and networks will be distributed separately. Attendance will be limited to three individuals from each district and two individuals from each charter school.

Jordan District Office Auditorium (7905 South Redwood Road, West Jordan)

Session 1: December 15, 2009: 8:30 – 11:30

Session 2: December 15, 2009: 12:30 – 3:30

Wimba Broadcast (Website address will be sent separately)

Session 3: December 16, 2009: 9:00 – 12:00

Nebo Learning Center (570 South Main, Springville)

Session 4: January 11, 2010: 8:30 – 11:30

Session 5: January 11, 2010: 12:30 – 3:30

Sevier District Office (180 East 600 N, Richfield)

Session 6: January 12, 2010: 10:00 – 1:00

Please contact your LEA's Assessment Director for more information about who will/should be attending these trainings from your LEA.